

(C) OMBUDSMAN OF THE AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network.

(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

(A) OMBUDSMAN.—The head of the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network shall be the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network (in this subsection referred to as the “Ombudsman”), who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Ombudsman shall have recognized expertise in the field of mass communications, print media, or broadcast media.

(C) PART-TIME STATUS.—The position of Ombudsman shall be a part-time position.

(D) TERM.—The term of office of the Ombudsman shall be five years.

(E) REMOVAL.—The Ombudsman may be removed from office by the Secretary only for malfeasance.

(3) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman shall ensure that the American Forces Network adheres to the standards and practices of the Network in its programming.

(B) PARTICULAR DUTIES.—In carrying out the duties of the Ombudsman under this paragraph, the Ombudsman shall—

(i) initiate and conduct, with such frequency as the Ombudsman considers appropriate, reviews of the integrity, fairness, and balance of the programming of the American Forces Network;

(ii) initiate and conduct, upon the request of Congress or members of the audience of the American Forces Network, reviews of the programming of the Network;

(iii) initiate, pursuant to reviews under clause (i) or (ii) or otherwise, circumstances in which the American Forces Network has not adhered to the standards and practices of the Network in its programming, including circumstances in which the programming of the Network lacked integrity, fairness, or balance; and

(iv) make recommendations to the American Forces Network on means of correcting the lack of adherence identified pursuant to clause (iii).

(C) LIMITATION.—In carrying out the duties of the Ombudsman under this paragraph, the Ombudsman may not engage in any pre-broadcast censorship or pre-broadcast review of the programming of the American Forces Network.

(4) RESOURCES.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network such personnel and other resources as the Secretary and the Ombudsman jointly determine appropriate to permit the Ombudsman to carry out the duties of the Ombudsman under paragraph (3).

(5) INDEPENDENCE.—The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to ensure the complete independence of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network within the Department of Defense.

(6) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense committees each year a report on the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network during the preceding year.

(B) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Ombudsman shall make available to the public each report submitted under subparagraph (A) through the Internet website of the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network and by such other means as the Ombudsman considers appropriate.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 15th, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 431, a bill to establish a program to award grants to improve and maintain sites honoring Presidents of the United States, S. 505, a bill to amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, S. 1288, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, S. 1544, a bill to establish the Northern Plains National Heritage Area in the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes, S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution designating the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, S. 748 and H.R. 1084, bills to authorize the establishment at Antietam National Battlefield of a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the First New Hampshire Light Artillery Battery who fought in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, and for other purposes, and H.R. 2107, to amend Public Law 104-329 to modify authorities for the use of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC. 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224-5161 or Brian Carlstrom at (202) 224-6293.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, the Chair wishes to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a public hearing entitled, “Strengthening Hurricane Recovery Efforts for Small Businesses” on Tuesday, November 8, 2005, at 10 a.m., in room 428A Russell Senate Office Building.

The Chair urges every Member to attend.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources previously scheduled for November 3, 2005, has been rescheduled.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, November 10, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of:

Jeffrey D. Jarrett, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, Department of Energy;

Edward F. Sproat, III, of Pennsylvania, to be Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy.

For further information, please contact Judy Pensabene of the Committee staff at (202) 224-1327.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that MAJ Alison Thompson, a marine fellow on Senator DOLE's staff, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of S. 1042.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel: